

Q1.

2026 Executive Board - Candidate Application Form

The ACUHO-I Executive Board is a dynamic and forward-thinking group of individuals committed to using their diverse perspectives to expand the work of the Association. Guided by [the strategic plan](#) and the [ACUHO-I Constitution and bylaws](#), the Executive Board is charged with providing the strategic direction for the Association. This work ensures that ACUHO-I's efforts are aligned with our shared vision and mission to support campus housing and residence life professionals as they work towards student success. Thank you for your interest.

In order to slate the most qualified and representative candidates, the ACUHO-I Nominations Committee uses a number of categories/criteria in its review and slating process. You can find more information on these criteria at <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>.

Please use this form to submit your application for a 2026 Executive Board position.

The Candidate Application closes at 12pm ET (US) on May 15, 2025.

Q2. Applicant First Name:

Lanche

Q3. Applicant Last Name:

van Tonder

Q4. Position Desired:

- ☒ Vice President (3 Year Presidential Cycle, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Globalization Director (3 Year Term, 2026-2028)
- ☐ Inclusion & Equity Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☐ Regional Affiliations Director (2 Year Term, 2026-2027)
- ☐ Residence Education Director (2 Year Team, 2026-2027)

Q5. Current College/University:

University of Pretoria

Q6. Current Job Title:

Q7. Email Address:

Q8. Cell Phone Number:

Q10. Administrative Assistant's Name:

Q11. Administrative Assistant's Email Address:

Q12. Upload a Professional Headshot:

Note: This image is collected should you be slated for a position. The selection committee does not have access to this file during the process.



[L van Tonder image.jpg](#)

711.3KB
image/jpeg

Q13. Upload a Current Resume:

Note: The Nominations Committee will use your resume to evaluate your ability to fulfill the duties of the position for which you are applying. Please review the duties and qualifications for your position of interest in the 2026 board nomination packet and address them within your resume. The 2026 nomination packet can be found here: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q14. Upload a Short Bio (Approximately 250 Words). This bio will be shared publicly if you are slated.

[Short bio - L van Tonder May 2025.pdf](#)

52.2KB
application/pdf

Q20. Short Answer Prompts:

Note: These short answer prompts allow the membership to evaluate your qualifications for your desired position on the 2026 Executive Board. Your responses will be shared publicly if you are slated. Please respond pertinently, limit your answers to 200 words, and use the relevant EB position description when formulating your answers: <https://www.acuho-i.org/who-we-are/executive-board/elections/>

Q15. **Qualifications:** Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

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With experience as the ACUHO-I Globalization Director (2023 to 2025) and service on the Southern African Chapter's Executive Board since 2021 (as Facilities and Operations Director and Staff Development Director), I have cultivated strategic global partnerships and contributed to governance and programming across diverse regions. As co-director of the Southern African Student Housing Training Institute (2022 to present), I oversee curriculum design, committee leadership, and staff mentorship – ensuring alignment with ACUHO-I's values and mission. In my capacity as Head of Residence Management and Student Life at the University of Pretoria, I lead complex system integrations and drive student-life and housing programming. These roles have taken me to international conferences and training institutes, where I've built and sustained a strong network of campus-housing leaders globally. I've chaired high-impact task teams, prepared Executive Board-level reports, and forged enduring relationships with external partners worldwide. Backed by a bachelor's degree in law and a master's degree in leadership, I combine financial and risk-management acumen with a wealth of social capital – including mentorship circles, peer networks, and cross-border alliances – that collectively amplify my impact on ACUHO-I's global footprint.

Q16. **Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility:** Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Understands and keeps up to date on local, national, and international policies and trends that affect housing and residence life. Is aware of the organization's impact on the external environment and has pride in the campus housing profession. Is considered a thought-leader with a commitment to continuous learning about ACUHO-I organization. This includes a foundational understanding of the organizational structure, culture, and core programs/services to support the mission of ACUHO-I. Possesses an area of expertise that helps the Association meet one or more of its strategic initiatives. Understands and appropriately applies principles, related to specialized expertise in campus housing and other areas of importance.

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As Globalization Director on the ACUHO-I Executive Board, I have established a strategic global role within the ACUHO-I Home Office, advancing the organization's mission at housing institutes and through offerings worldwide. This position reflects my ability to anticipate emerging trends, align strategic goals, and advocate for global perspectives in student housing. For example, I secured Executive Board support to create a permanent role in the Home Office that bridges regional differences and promotes best practices globally—recognizing the need for knowledge exchange in a rapidly changing sector. As Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute since 2022, I helped develop a forward-thinking curriculum that integrates both local and international best practices. This work required deep strategic thinking, data-driven decision-making, and the ability to translate insights into impactful learning experiences. Additionally, I have built a global network by engaging peers at international conferences and professional forums. I served as faculty at the Global Housing Training Institute in Coventry, England, in 2023 and at STARS College in 2024 — experiences that further honed my ability to build consensus, inspire action, and drive meaningful change within the profession.

Q17. Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Fosters an environment where individual differences are valued and leveraged to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. Treats others with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect. Listens effectively; clarifies information as needed and is open to change and new information; rapidly adapts to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles. Prioritizes the best interests of the board, organization, and members over individual priorities, such as pet projects and personal advancement. Encourages and supports a positive culture between volunteer leaders, staff, and members. Willingness to solve problems as a group.

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I have developed a deep appreciation for the diversity of perspectives within the global student housing community. In my role as Globalization Director, I have nurtured relationships with professionals from a wide range of cultural, institutional, and regional backgrounds, ensuring that our strategies reflect the varied needs of housing professionals worldwide. For example, when designing the curriculum for the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute (RV-SHTI), I emphasize context-specific solutions, recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach is often ineffective in addressing the complex challenges facing housing institutions. As Vice-President, I will remain committed to critically evaluating our current position and the information we have, actively seeking out diverse voices to enrich our collective understanding. I believe that truly impactful solutions require not only a deep knowledge of best practices but also a commitment to identifying the right fit for each unique context. The international reach and potential of our organization must not be neglected. To achieve this, I will prioritize inclusive communication — encouraging input from all backgrounds and regions — to ensure our recommendations become adaptable tools that housing professionals can use globally to craft context-specific solutions for their institutions.

Q18. Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Board members should be able to provide both strategic and innovative thought leadership. Strategic thinking involves analyzing issues and making decisions that support the organization's overarching mission. Board members with the capacity for innovative thinking make new ideas and solutions possible. Articulate current conditions and anticipate future trends that impact campus housing programs. Ability to influence strategic direction and collaborate with ACUHO-I to create programs and services that meet the need of campus housing professionals. Ability to embrace an adaptable and flexible mindset.

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I understand the importance of data-driven decision-making and have implemented predictive analytics to proactively identify at-risk students and situations, optimize resource allocation, and ensure our programs remain responsive and effective. This approach has strengthened my ability to make informed, long-term decisions that enhance student success and operational efficiency. As Vice President, I will bring a strategic mindset shaped by my experience as Head of Residence Management and Student Life, along with my international work developing and implementing forward-looking strategies that align residence operations with organizational goals. I have also created culturally responsive residence-life programs that reflect the diverse backgrounds of our students, anticipating the growing need for culturally sensitive support in a globalized higher-education environment. I recognize the value of surrounding myself with a challenge network of diverse voices, critically evaluating my strategies to ensure they remain innovative and contextually relevant. This combination of strategic foresight, data-driven analysis, and global perspective will enable me to contribute meaningfully to the board — anticipating future trends and advancing ACUHO-I's mission. In turn, I will emphasize expanding our organization's international growth and impact.

Q19. Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency (as defined below).

Develops the ability of others to perform and contribute to the organization by providing ongoing feedback and opportunities to learn through formal and informal methods.

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My approach to developing others is rooted in the belief that meaningful growth comes from thoughtful reflection and constructive, purpose-driven feedback. I believe the most impactful feedback is grounded in the shared goals we're working toward, providing clear direction and context for growth. Building trust and rapport is at the core of my philosophy; this foundation enables honest, open conversations that encourage continuous improvement and professional development. In my roles as Head of Residence Management and Student Life and as Co-Director of the Roelf Visser Student Housing Training Institute (RV-SHTI), I've prioritized creating learning environments where professionals feel empowered to take on new challenges, reflect on their practice, and grow as leaders. This approach has strengthened my teams and reinforced my commitment to the ongoing development of others. As Vice President, I will promote continuous professional development through shared accountability, supporting fellow board members in achieving our collective goals. This includes identifying learning opportunities, building on existing knowledge-sharing initiatives, and challenging my peers to reflect on their growth, share insights, and align their learning with the strategic objectives we set as a board.